DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 221 193 IR 010 354

AUTHOR McNally, Tom; Segal, Jane
TITLE Battle of the Library Superstars. A Videotape Script.
INSTITUTION Ohio State Univ., Columbus. Libraries.
PUB DATE Jun 81
NOTE 17p.; Best copy available.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *College Freshmen; College Libraries; Higher Education; Indexes; *Library Catalogs; Library Collections; *Library Instruction; *Library Services; *Library Skills; Online Systems; Scripts; *Search Strategies; Undergraduate Students; Videotape Recordings
IDENTIFIERS Library of Congress Subject Headings

ABSTRACT

In this videotape script, a parody of a television sports competition serves as a vehicle for introducing college freshmen to the Ohio State University Library System and to the concept of search strategy. In the script, two student contenders participate in three events: the "card catalog combat," the "magazine mania," and the "Library Computer System shootout." In the process the function of Library of Congress Subject Headings, the use of indexes, and information retrieval via online catalog systems are introduced. The "competition" is interrrupted by five commercials which describe various services offered to students through the library system, such as library orientation courses, reserve reading room usage, the provision of career information, the lending of art prints, and phone-in circulation and book renewal. (Author/JL)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED221183

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

BATTLE OF THE LIBRARY SUPERSTARS

a videotape script

by

Tom McNally
Jane Segal

The Ohio State University

Columbus, Ohio

June, 1981

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Jane D. Segal

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

IR010354

Library Superstars

Howard: Hello again everyone. This is Howard Cossell broadcasting to you from the campus of the Ohio State University. We're here today to view not just another contrived psuedo-sporting event but a depiction of the information seeking reality that exists for millions of college students everywhere.

What you'll be seeing is a competition involving not the great or the near great, but people just like you and me, finding their way through the information maze of an academic library system. Yes, sports fans, this is the one you've been waiting for--the battle of the Library Superstars!

Our ten-point competition will take these graceful gladiators through the complications of the card catalog, the perplexities of periodical indexes, and finally the labyrinth of the Library Control System. All this and more after these words from our sponsor.

COMMERCIAL 1

LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT COMMERCIAL

SCENE: Outside West Campus LRC. People are sitting, reading, bicycling, running, throwing frisbees, etc. Two students are standing and talking.

BOY: Oh, really? I'm taking UVC 100 this quarter too. My advisor says that if I come to class everyday I should get all the information I need to deal with academic life at O.S.U.

GIRL: Well, my advisor is E. F. Hunter . . .

(all the people become silent and lean over to hear what she says)

And E. F. Hunter says that I should also complete the Library Exercise. It's available in 3 levels of difficulty at the West Campus Learning Resources Center and at the Undergrad Library. Then I'll get 25 points and learn how to use the undergrad libraries for research projects too.

Howard: We're back live with as tough a competition as you're likely to see. And we've got two tough competitors to snatch up the gauntlet of this confligration. Hailing from his north campus dorm is Sam Sweatsock. Sam as you might remember holds the North American record of 700 references in the bibliography of a one-page paper. His opponent from the Zeta Zippy Dippy sorority house is Pam Preppy. Pam, of course, rose to national attention last year after she charged out every book in the OSU Library system and returned them all within the libraries' 3 week circulation period for undergraduates.

Howard: With us today and acting as our expert commentator is Professor Oswald Oddbody, chairman of the Physical Social Sciences department and current holder of the record for assigning 107 term-papers in a single course in a single quarter. Professor Oddbody, how do you see the competition?

Oddbody: Well, Howard, each of our contestants has received a topic that they will be searching for during the competition. Sam will have to locate information on "air bladders in fish."

Howard: He'll be searching for what?

Oddbody: That's right, Howard. And Pam will be searching for "slush on pavements and runways."

Howard: Those are challenging topics, Oddbody. Professor, tell us a little more about what we'll be seeing.

Oddbody: Howard, the competition follows the world famous concept of the search strategy.

Howard: Amplify that thought for us, Professor.

Oddbody: (Louder) Howard, the competition follows

Howard: What I meant was, could you expand on this idea of search strategy.

Oddbody: Well, Howard, a search strategy just means having a plan in mind before you start to look for information. After all, Howard, if you needed to find a needle in a haystack, you wouldn't start looking in the chickencoop. (Laughs).

Howard: (Frowns). And how does this relate to our impending conflict?

Oddbody: The competitions, Howard, represent a search for information. The first contest is the card catalog combat, next is the magazine mania, and last is the Library Control System shootout. These contests reflect the pattern of finding books and magazines and then using LCS to find which of the 23 library locations own the items.

Howard: Sounds exciting, Professor Oddbody.

Oddbody: Well, it really isn't, Howard, but if the contestants remember to keep their heads down, their eyes on the ball, follow through the search strategy, they can't go too wrong.

Howard: And I thought Dandy Dan was bad.

Oddbody: Right, Howard. Notice that the contestants, Pam and Sam, are looking up their topics in encyclopedias. This, Howard, is a great way to warm up before a search by getting background information on your topic.

Howard: As you can see the stage is set for what at the very least may rival the intergalactic confligrations so often fictionalized in our cinematic discourses. And we have got it for you. Superstar against superstar, woman vs. man, preppy vs. sweatsock in the greatest library shootout of all time. Stay with us, it all happens after these words from our sponsor.

COMMERCIAL 2

Closed Reserve Ad

SCENE: West Campus Learning Resource Center

CHARACTERS: salesman type in gaudy jacket
student

Salesman: Hi folks. This is Harvy Hardsell inviting you to come on down to the reserve desk at West Campus Learning Resource Center. This week only we have a super special sale on pre-used final exams and midterms. We know you're under a lot of pressure this quarter, so we've stocked up. Our inventory is overflowing with reserve material. And we're ready to wheel and deal. Take a look at some of these babies. Here's an Economics 100 midterm, used only one semester. We've got true/false, essay, and multipe choice tests. Some with answers. And for you Sunday students we've got a set of lecture notes only used by a little old lady during church services. Listen to your Uncle Harvy - you just got to see it to believe it. In addition to our many, many finals and midterms, you'll find those ever popular books and articles on reserve. And for your convenience, many of the same deals - some almost too good to believe - can be found at our branch location, the Undergrad Library, right across the street from Long's bookstore.

FEMALE STUDENT: Hey Harvy, what kind of a deal can you give me on Dr. Allan Abstract's art midterm?

Harvy: For you, just one current I.D. card.

FEMALE STUDENT: That doesn't seem like much of a deal to me. How about half an I.D. card?

Harvy: Because I like you, 3/4 of an I.D. card.

FEMALE STUDENT: I only have half an I.D. card, but I'm willing to throw in my grandmother.

Harvy: Its a deal.
(fade out on discussion)

Howard: We're back live at the West Campus LRC. Professor Oddbody would you please describe to us what is about to ensue as we puruse the card catalog chase.

Oddbody: Certainly Howard. Each of our superstars already has been given a topic. They are going to look for that subject in the card catalog and find one book on their subject.

Howard: Professor, I now see that Pam and Sam are on the starting line and there's the whistle they're off! Clearly Sam has taken the early lead by moving directly to the card catalog drawers. Professor Oddbody, can you illucidate for our listeners the tactic that Pam Preppy has taken?

Oddbody: Howard, Pam appears to be using the, yes Howard, she is definitely using the Library of Congress Subject Headings. These books list all the subject headings used in the card catalog. Also, Howard, if you pick the wrong subject heading, they will guide you to the correct one.

Howard: Sam Sweatsock now seems confused, yes, even muddled at his lack of success. What's this, Pam Preppy is done with the LC Subject Headings book. She's heading for the subject catalog and yes, she's found her book! (WHISTLE) Pam Preppy has found her book in the catalog. I'm going to try to get over to her---the fans are all around her. PAM! PAM! Can you tell our listeners what prompted your actions in this contest?

Pam: Thanks, Howard. I want to thank all my friends, my parents, my boyfriend, my eighth grade gym teacher....

Howard: But Pam, as to your tenacious tactic.

Pam: Well Howard, I felt that I could save big time by finding out the right subject heading in advance. Of course, the Library of Congress Subject Heading books told me where to look and I guess the rest is history.

Howard: History indeed. Pam, well done and good luck in the ensuing tumultuous tangle to follow, but first a station break.

COMMERCIAL 3

CAREER CENTER AD II

SCENE: OSU Alumni reunion

CHARACTERS: Betty Lou Builtski - Mae West / Miss Piggy type - Delbert Doolittle / shy litte man

Delbert: Why its Betty Lou Builtski - you haven't changed a bit.

Betty: Well, Delbert Doolittle. Seems like just yesterday we were standing in line in Long's Bookstore. What have you been up to all these years?

DD: Well, I've been a bum.

BB: How interesting. Has that been a challenging career?

DD: Challenging, yes. But the financial rewards have not been great. And what have you been doing?

BB: I've been a rich and glamorous movie star.

DD: In my business, I don't see a lot of movies. But what I don't understand is - I got straight A's and you got D's. But I became a bum and you became a rich and glamorous movie star. Did you do something I didn't do?

BB: Apparently so. I went to the Career Center at the West Campus Learning Resource Center. I checked out books and pamphlets. They told me what to do with my life.

DD: I sure wish I'd known about the career center. Do you think its too late?

BB: Well, as I always say, its never too late, big boy.

Howard: We're back live at the fabulous West Campus Learning Resource Center. A mouthful of a title for a mouthful of a place. And with me here is Sam Sweatsock. Sam, you didn't fare quite as well as I know you would have liked to, but you battled like the champion that we have recognized and respected you for. What are your plans for the magazine masquerade?

Sam: Well, Howard, I'm going to come out slow and use a periodical index, probably the Social Science Index and let that guide me to the magazine.

Howard: Good luck big fellow. I know you can come back. Professor Oddbody, your analysis of this upcoming upheaval.

Oddbody: Howard, Sam and Pam must locate one magazine article on their topic. I know it seems simple, but with 20,000 different magazines on campus, it's no easy task. I spoke with Pam just a few minutes ago and here's what she had to say. (Long pause) (TAPE PLAYBACK)

Pam: Well Professor, I'm almost positive Time Magazine had an article on my topic last August. Of course, it might have been October. But I'm going to go out fast to get that article. (BACK LIVE)

Howard: Very interesting stuff indeed. Perhaps a reversal of style, I'm not sure. But I see the judges have Sam and Pam ready to go--and there's the whistle.

Oddbody: Oh Howard! Look at Pam go. She's all the way to Time Magazine and she's flipping pages.

Howard: Truly she may have blitzed Sam badly in this competition. Sam is far behind at the index table looking for an article.

Oddbody: Howard, it appears that Pam has not found her article where she expected it. She's flipping through the magazine wildly.

Howard: And look at this. Here comes Sam Sweatsock. He appears to know what he's looking for. I fear only a miracle can save Pam Preppy now. Sam's going to the shelf, he's got the bound periodical, yes he found it! WHISTLE And we'll be right back with Sam to find out how he did it.

COMMERCIAL 4

PHONE CENTER COMMERCIAL

SCENE I: Student in library, table covered with books and papers - lean over and whispers to student near him.

FEMALE STUDENT: How do you spell relief from term paper indigestion?

MALE STUDENT: I spell relief 422-3900

****

SCENE II: Student in classroom. Looking exhausted, sliding down in seat. Raises hand, professor calls on him.

MALE STUDENT: How do you spell relief from term paper indigestion?

FEMALE PROFESSOR: (writes 422-3900 on board)
The correct way to spell relief is 422-3900. By calling the library phone center, you can find out if OSU libraries have the books you need, renew books, have books charged out in your name and held, or even have them sent to your on-campus address.

****

SCENE III: Student running outside West Campus LRC with armful of books, drops books. Speaks to student sitting on bench, reading.

MALE STUDENT: How do you spell relief from term paper indigestion?

FEMALE STUDENT: I spell relief 422-3900.

MALE STUDENT: (looks at camera) Thats 422-39001

(phone number flashes on screen)

Howard: We're back live with Sam Sweatsock who just moments ago pulled a stunning come-from-behind victory over his preternatural, preponderate opponent Pam Preppy.

Sam: Who?

Howard: I said you won.

Sam: Oh, yeah.

Howard: How did you do it?

Sam: Well Howard, I took control right from the sound of the whistle. I went to work on the Social Sciences Index and found the article listed that I wanted. Next I made sure the LRC had that magazine. So all I had to do was go to the shelf and get it. It was a piece of cake.

Howard: And cake it may well have been, but not the dessert to this firey feast of festivities because the main course will be served right after these delicious words from our sponsor.

COMMERCIAL 5

FRAMED PRINT COMMERCIAL

SCENE: Man in dinner jacket, ascot, pommaded hair.

Man: Hello art lovers. You may think that you will never be able to afford the world's great art. Happily, you're wrong. The West Campus Learning Resource Center can offer you fine copies of the truly great paintings.

SCENE II: (lists of paintings and their artists appear on the screen)

Female Announcer: (Names paintings and artists)
To take advantage of this offer, stop by the West Campus Learning Resource Center. All prints complete with decorator frames. Not available in stores.

Howard: We're back live at the West Campus LRC for the climatic clash between these tenacious titans--Pam Preppy and Sam Sweatsock. Indeed it has come down to one final battle to decide who will stand alone at the top of the book stack as the greatest library superstars.
But in order to reach that lofty pinnacle our two wiery warriors are going to have to tango to the Library Control System serenade. And to explain the LCS competition is our resident egghead Professor Oswald Oddbody.

Oddbody: Thanks Howard, as our viewers may know the Library Control System is the automated card catalog that is used to find books and magazines all over campus. Pam and Sam will be given the author and title of a book, the title of a magazine, and a correct subject heading. They will be given 3 minutes to complete these searches.

Howard: Thanks Oddbody. I see that Sam and Pam are at their computer terminals and are ready to start.

Oddbody: Notice also Howard that they have taken LCS brochures from the holder on the side of the terminals. These brochures outline all the searches that can be done, and they list all the abbreviations so that users can interpret the results they get.

Howard: There's the whistle and they're off! Sam is pounding out his author/title search. He's got his ATS followed by a slash and now he's typing in the first 4 letters of the author's name and he's got, yes he's got the first 5 letters of the title of the book. He's entered the search and there's his list of matches. There's the detailed search by line number and he's got his list of library locations.

Oddbody: Look at this Howard. Pam has done her ATS search and already into her search for her magazine. She's got her basic title command--the TLS and a slash followed by the first 4 letters of the first word of the title and she's got the first 5 letters of the second word of the title and the second slash and the letters SER. She's entered the search and there is....the list of magazine titles. Now she's doing a detailed search by line number. Look at that Howard--she's also entered the year the magazine was published to narrow her search down. Now she's got her locations.

Howard: Sam seems to be closing the gap since I can see that he's starting his subject command, yes--I see the SUB/ typed in and now he's typing in his subject heading.

Oddbody: By the way Howard, the subject headings used for subject searches on LCS are also taken from the LC Subject Headings books.

Howard: Sam's got his list of headings and is entering his tbl/ search for line 15. He's got his list of books on the topic and now he's done his detailed search by line number and he's got it! (WHISTLE)

Oddbody: Howard, I believe we have a tie.

Howard: A tie it is then and they both win the Grand Prize. And grand it is. Johnny tell Sam and Pam what their prize is.

Johnny: Sam and Pam, we're going to send both of you on an all expense paid trip to the Undergraduate Library in Sullivant Hall. You probably recall that Sullivant Hall is at the corner of 15th and High streets, right across the street from Long's Bookstore. The Undergraduate Library, along with the West Campus LRC, is one of the two locations on campus where you can do a UVC library assignment. At the Undergrad Library you'll enjoy a complete reserve desk with material from many of your favorite courses, there's also reference books, magazines, plenty of study space, and friendly, expert librarians to answer all your questions.

Howard: Well it's been yet another sensational siege of superstars. We've seen Pam Preppy sweep the card catalog competition with the use of LC Subject Headings for the early lead. And then it was Sam Sweatsock striking back with his patient use of the appropriate periodical index, and last but certainly not least, we saw the head-to-head LCS competition in which both of our combatants followed their brochures with speed and precision.

Well I guess that wraps up another episode of Wide World of Sports. Be with us next time when Frank Zappa takes on Donny Osmond in the third annual "Straight vs. Sick" muddwrestling championship from the Bonneville Salt Flats.